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STUDENT COMPOSITIONS AT MANCHESTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE MUSICAL TIMES.'

SIR,—In the article headed 'Manchester and District,' which appears in the August number of the *Musical Times*, there are some statements made regarding the programmes of the Royal Manchester College of Music which are not correct. Your correspondent remarks that 'as last year Miss Alice Dill alone appears in the programmes as a composer.' If the programmes for last year's public examination concerts were consulted, it would be found that besides three part-songs by Miss Alice Dill, there was performed a Trio for piano-forte, violin, and violoncello, by a student from Dr. Walter Carroll's composition class. It would also be seen that at the first public examination concert of the session 1910-11, held in the Whitworth Hall, Victoria University, an Octett for strings by the same student was given with much success. Regarding the statement of your correspondent as to the amount of progress made in composition at the College, perhaps the fact is not known to him that in the last year there have been more original pieces by students performed than there were in the first ten years of the existence of the College.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. M. C. M.

Obituary.

The death is announced on August 14, at his residence in Forest Hill, of Mr. George J. Webb, aged seventy-four years. Mr. Webb was for forty-four years a member of Sir August Manns's Crystal Palace Orchestra. He was present at the opening ceremony of the Palace by the late Queen and Prince Consort, and remained until the orchestra was disbanded, at which time he was the only surviving member of the original organization. He also played the clarinet for several years at the Philharmonic and principal London and provincial concerts. He founded and conducted both the London Septette Union (a professional organization that did good classical work in London and the provinces) and the St. Peter's Amateur Orchestral Society, Brockley, which he carried on for twenty-five years until his health began to fail, six years ago. Mr. Webb came from a very musical family, and his musical gifts have descended upon his children. His two brothers and his daughters are all in the profession.

We learn with regret of the premature death of the young violinist, Hilary Gauntlett, who was drowned whilst bathing at Dieppe on August 9. Mr. Gauntlett, a grandson of the late Dr. Henry J. Gauntlett, was a violinist of great promise, having studied for many years with the late August Wilhelmj, by whom he was much esteemed, and later with Henri Berthelier, in Paris, and Ottokar Sevcik in Prague. He had been for the past three years a member of the Beecham Symphony Orchestra, and was possessed of a remarkably extensive solo repertory. Mr. Gauntlett, though only twenty-four years of age, was already well-known and warmly esteemed for his great talent by many London musicians. The funeral took place at Kensal Green Cemetery on Tuesday, August 15.

We regret also to have to record the following deaths:

The Very Rev. ROBERT GREGORY, D.D., in London, on August 2. Although the late Dean had many important interests to serve besides that of music, the influence he was able to exert in the application of the art to the services at the Cathedral calls for an expression of gratitude and deep respect on behalf of all concerned with ecclesiastical music. He was appointed Canon of St. Paul's in 1868, and it was in happy co-operation with the late Sir John (then Dr.) Stainer, who became organist to the Cathedral in 1872, that those great reforms in the musical arrangements were accomplished that gave the Cathedral services the world-wide reputation they have maintained to this day. Dr. Gregory became Dean of the Cathedral in 1891. He was born at Nottingham, on February 9, 1819, and was therefore over ninety-two years of age at the time of his death.

Prof. ALBERT HEINTZ, at Berlin, in the ninetyeth year of his age. He was one of the earliest admirers of Wagner, and is mainly known through his pianoforte arrangements from the 'Ring' and 'Parsifal.' He supervised the first edition of Wagner's correspondence with Herr Otto Wesendonck.

Prof. ROBERT RADECKE, at Wernigerode (Harz), on June 21. He was born on October 31, 1830, in Dittmannsdorf, in Silesia. He became conductor at the Berlin Court Opera in 1863, and retained the post for twenty-four years. On the death of Herr Julius Stern he became principal of the well-known Stern Conservatoire, and in 1892 he was nominated principal of the Royal Prussian Institute of Church Music, a position he occupied until 1907.

Herr RUDOLF KRZYŻANOWSKI, at Graz, at the age of forty-nine. The deceased was chief conductor of the Weimar Court Opera. He retired for a period owing to differences with another conductor, and fought a successful action (lasting three years) against the authorities of the theatre. He had been reinstated, when he had to submit to an operation which proved fatal.

Prof. JOSEPH GÄNSBACHER, at Vienna, in the eighty-third year of his age. He was an intimate friend of Brahms. For many years he held a prominent position at the Vienna Conservatoire.

Mr. BRUNO OSCAR KLEIN, former organist of the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at New York, and a talented composer, who recently passed away at New York at the age of fifty-six.

Prof. SAMUEL DE LANGE, at Stuttgart, on July 7, aged seventy-one. He was a distinguished organist and composer, and had been principal of the Royal Conservatoire since 1893.

Mr. MAENGWYN DAVIES, musical director of the London Wesleyan Mission, at Matlock, aged forty-three.

Mr. FREDERICK TIVENDELL, at Cassel, aged eighty-six years. He was born an Englishman, but as early as 1843 he settled at Cassel, where he earned a considerable reputation as a pianist and composer. He frequently played in public with Spohr and, later, with Dr. Joachim.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC CLUB.

The Club was founded in 1885, and ever since that time it has been a fruitful means of keeping old students in touch with one another and with the Academy. In order to mark the departure of the Academy to its new abode, the annual dinner, which was held at the Criterion Restaurant on July 22, was specially patronised by members and Academy officials. During the proceedings a donation of £250 was made on behalf of the Club towards the building fund of the Academy. Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie, Principal of the Academy, presided, Mr. Stewart Macpherson (President of the Club) being vice-chairman. Amongst the guests were Lady and Miss Mackenzie, Mrs. Stewart Macpherson, Mr. and Mrs. Randegger, Mr. Louis N. Parker, Mr. Edward German, Mr. Myles B. Foster, Dr. Dundas Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Matthay, Mr. F. Corder, Mr. Fred Walker, Dr. McNaught, Dr. H. W. Richards, Mr. F. A. W. Docker, Mr. Arthur O'Leary, Mr. F. W. Renaut, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Percy Baker. An excellent musical programme was sustained by Mr. Marcus Thomson, Mr. Rowsby Woof, Miss Carmen Hill, and Mr. Arthur Alexander, with recitations by Mrs. Tobias Matthay.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie, in proposing the toast of the Royal Academy of Music, said that on that occasion he felt a natural elation at the accomplishment of a long-cherished scheme, but also there was the sober thought—which would arise—at the final cutting of long-established links and ties. Somehow, as the moment for departure approached, some of them become uncommonly silent. Their little jokes were more feeble than usual. But it would be a poor certificate to the very essence and power of their Art if musicians were incapable of sentiment and emotion, and, if they felt it, were afraid to show it. He reminded his audience of the legend of the Academy ghost, which was reputed to be the shade of